

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 054074

STADIS/////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SY, US, OGEN, SHUM

SUBJECT: ODDS AND ENDS

REF: DAMASCUS 1226

1. SYRIAN JEWRY. AFTER LOOKING OVER POUCH SCHEDULES, WE DECIDED NOT TO WAIT FOR MY LUNCH WITH KABBANI ON MARCH 3 BEFORE POUCHING THE 48 MARRIAGE PETITIONS. THEY ARE GOING OUT IN THE CLASSIFIED POUCH SUPPOSEDLY LEAVING EVENING OF MARCH 2. DIPLOMATIC POUCH REGISTRATION NUMBERS ARE: 292-4159,60, 61, 62 AND 63 -- FIVE LARGE MANILA ENVELOPES.

2. IFI MATTERS AND HUMAN RIGHTS. THE DOLS 55 MILLION PLUS IBRD LOAN TO SYRIA FOR HIGHWAYS CAME UP A FEW WEEKS AGO, AND IT WAS DECIDED TO EXAMINE IN A SPECIAL INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WHETHER THE U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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SHOULD SUPPORT THIS LOAN IN THE LIGHT OF SYRIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. WE HAD A GOOD SESSION WITH HA REPS IN ADVANCE OF THIS MEETING AND CONVINCED THEM TO SUPPORT THE LOAN ON BASIS INTER ALIA OF NEED TO KEEP SYRIA IN THE PEACE PROCESS, SYRIA'S IMPROVING HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD, ROLE IN LEBANON, ETC. DAMASCUS 583 ON SYRIA'S RECORD IN HUMAN RIGHTS WAS BASIS FOR OUR BEST ARGUMENTATION. IN ANY EVENT,

THE IFI LOAN SAILED THROUGH THE COMMITTEE WITH NO PROBLEM.

3. WE DID PROMISE HA, HOWEVER, THAT WE WOULD INSTRUCT EMBASSY TO TRY TO OPEN UP A LOW-KEY DIALOGUE BETWEEN YOU AND AL-KHANY ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS, USING AS A FULCRUM HIS PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA MEETINGS. WE ARE PREPARING SOME SUGGESTED GUIDELINES WHICH OF COURSE WILL BE NON-CONFRONTATIONAL, BUT WOULD HELP ESTABLISH A POINT WITH OUR AMERICAN CONSTITUENCY THAT WE ARE WORKING FOR A MUTUALITY OF CONCERNS AND ACTIONS WITH THE SYRIANS.

4. KABBANI TELLS ME THAT AL KHANY WILL NOT RPT NOT GO TO NEW DELHI AS AMBASSADOR, FOR FAMILY REASONS

4. FINAL NOTE: AGAIN, MANY THANKS TO YOU AND MEMBERS OF YOUR STAFF WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUPER JOB IN DAMASCUS 583. IT EXHIBITED RESOURCEFULNESS AND PLAYED A MAJOR PART IN PUTTING HUMAN RIGHTS AFFAIRS INTO A MORE ACCURATE PERSPECTIVE. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, THIS RESPONSE OF YOURS HAS BEEN THE FULLEST, THE MOST REVEALING, AND CERTAINLY THE TIMELIEST OF ANY NEA POST WHICH HAD BEEN ASKED TO EXPAND REPORTING ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES. CHRISTOPHER

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